

# Changes in Species Assessment

- Threat Score Changes
- Population Trend Score Changes
- Rename AI Score to RD
- Priority Tier Structure Changes
- Changes to Priority Species List
- Organize Species into Suites / Guilds
- Identification of Wetland-associated Species

# Threat Score Changes

- Northern Bobwhite – TB score 4 (was 3)
  - disappearing from southern Ontario landscape
- Long-eared Owl – TB 2 (was 3)
  - uses variety of habitats, including disturbed habitat
- Barn Owl – TB 3 (was 2)
  - habitat and nesting structures continue to be lost
- Area-sensitive Forest birds – TB 3 (if 2 before)
  - 20 species with increase threat scores

TB scores reflect future conditions:

TB 2: stable conditions expected    TB 3: likely to decline

TB 4: strong deterioration expected

# Population Trend Score Changes

- Addition of Atlas-based Declines

Declines in Atlas square breeding evidence converted to PT scores, based on rate & statistical significance

11 species with new PT=5 scores (strong declines)

2 are owls (LeOw, NSwO) – effort-related??

## AI Score now RD (Relative Density)

- more accurate name, less confusion with other measures of area importance (e.g., % of Pop'n)

# Tier Structure – was:

## Tier 1: Continental Importance (NA Plan)

- A – High Regional Importance ( $AI \geq 3$ )
- B – Low Regional Importance ( $AI = 2$ )

## Tier II: Regional Concern ( $Score \geq 15$ , $RD \geq 2$ )

- A – Regional Declines ( $AI + PT \geq 8$ )
- B – Regional High Responsibility ( $AI = 5$ )
- C – Regional Threats ( $TB/TN \geq 4$ )

## Tier III: Regional Stewardship (Hi % Pop'n)

## Tier IV: Federally Listed

## Tier V: Provincial or State Listed

# Tier Structure – is:

## Tier 1: Continental Importance (NA Plan)

- A – Watch List, Regional Importance ( $RD \geq 3$ )
- B – Stewardship Species at Core of Range ( $RD \geq 4$ )
- C – Watch List, Low Regional Importance ( $RD = 2$ )

## Tier II: Regional Concern ( $Score \geq 15$ , $RD \geq 2$ )

- A – Regional Declines ( $RD + PT \geq 8$ )
- B – Regional High Responsibility ( $RD = 5$ )
- C – Regional Threats ( $TB/TN \geq 4$ )

## Tier III: Regional Stewardship (Hi % Pop'n)

## Tier IV: Federally Listed

## Tier V: A – Provincially Listed

B – Regional Declines ( $PT=5$ ) & High Threats ( $\geq 3$ )

C – State Listed

# Tier Structure – moving towards:

## Tier 1: Continental Importance (NA Plan)

- A – Watch List, Regional Responsibility (RD  $\geq 2$ )
- B – Stewardship Species at Core of Range (RD  $\geq 4$ )

## Tier II: Regional Concern (Score $\geq 15$ , RD $\geq 2$ )

- A – Regional Concern (PT + TB/TN  $\geq 8$ )
- B – High Responsibility (RD = 5 or % Pop'n  $\geq 25\%$ )

## Tier III: Additional Species of Mgmt Importance

- A – Federally Listed
- B – Province / Territory or State Listed
- C – Other Species of Regional Importance

e.g., Declines (PT=5) & Threats (TB/TN  $\geq 3$ )

# Changes to Priority Species List

- Addition of all species with Strong Declines (PT=5) and Elevated Threats (TB/TN  $\geq 3$ )

Adds 7 Species: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow

- Removal of species without regular presence:

Bicknell's Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler removed

Other species with Ontario RD=1:

Bay-breasted Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Short-eared Owl (breeding season), Golden Eagle, Great Gray Owl

- Effect of latest change in Tier Structure:

Would remove Long-eared Owl, Veery

# Organized into Priority Suites / Guilds

## **FOREST - Mature Closed**

Veery  
Wood Thrush  
Cerulean Warbler  
Bay-breasted Warbler  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Northern Saw-whet Owl

## **FOREST - Gaps & Openings**

Black-billed Cuckoo  
Northern Flicker  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Long-eared Owl  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Hooded Warbler  
Kirtland's Warbler

## **FOREST - Swamp / Riparian / Ravines**

Canada Warbler  
Rusty Blackbird  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Prothonotary Warbler

## **GRASSLAND - Native & Low-intensity**

Bobolink  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Short-eared Owl  
Vesper Sparrow  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Northern Bobwhite  
Barn Owl  
Loggerhead Shrike

## **SHRUB - EARLY SUCCESSIONAL**

Willow Flycatcher  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Golden-winged Warbler  
Field Sparrow  
Brown Thrasher  
Prairie Warbler  
Whip-poor-will  
Eastern Towhee  
Vesper Sparrow  
Yellow-breasted Chat

## **WETLAND - Marsh**

Swamp Sparrow  
Northern Harrier  
Short-eared Owl  
post-breeding passerine roosts

## **SHORELINE**

Bank Swallow  
Belted Kingfisher  
Baltimore Oriole  
Bald Eagle  
migrant concentration areas

## **AERIAL INSECTIVORES - Species showing**

Bank Swallow  
Chimney Swift  
Whip-poor-will  
Purple Martin  
Common Nighthawk

## **WINTERING RAPTORS**

Short-eared Owl  
Long-eared Owl  
Bald Eagle  
Peregrine Falcon  
Golden Eagle  
Great Gray Owl

# ID Wetland-associated Landbirds

## Wetland-associated Landbirds

Bald Eagle	Willow Flycatcher	Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Harrier	Bank Swallow	Canada Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Veery	Henslow's Sparrow
Peregrine Falcon	Blue-winged Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Long-eared Owl	Golden-winged Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Short-eared Owl	Cerulean Warbler	post-breeding passerine roosts
Belted Kingfisher	Prothonotary Warbler	migrant concentration areas
Acadian Flycatcher		

Wetland habitat is important to these birds in BCR 13

"wetland" - marsh, swamp, carr, bog, fen, wet meadow, riparian, or lakeshore